

FAQs (continued)

Q. How do I know if a continuing education offering will be accepted by ASBN for license renewal?

A. There are several things you need to check out. First, are nurses listed in the target audience? If nurses are not listed or if the lay public is included in the target audience, the offering cannot be used. Second, look at the accreditation statement. To be acceptable, the continuing education offering must be accredited by an organization listed on the ASBN Approval Body list. This list can be found on the ASBN website. Also, remember your continuing education must be practice-focused (related to your job). In-services, refresher courses and orientation programs do not count. For complete information, refer to Chapter 2 of the ASBN *Rules*.

For further information on continuing education, visit our website, www.arsbn.org, and choose the education tab and continuing education link, or contact the ASBN at 501.686.2700 or e-mail info@arsbn.org

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CONTINUING EDUCATION

For Arkansas
Nurses

IT'S
THE
LAW!



HISTORY OF CONTINUED COMPETENCY

In the 1990s the continued competence of health care providers became a topic of national concern as discussed in such prestigious reports as the Pew Commission and the Institute of Medicine (IOM). In the 1999 legislative session there was informal discussion amongst legislators about mandating continuing education for nurses. In the 2001 Arkansas legislative session, Act 86 was passed, which authorizes the Arkansas State Board of Nursing (ASBN) to establish standards for requiring continuing education for all nurses.

OVERVIEW OF CONTINUED COMPETENCY MODEL

INITIAL LICENSURE

- Graduate of a program* or equivalency
- Pass NCLEX® (RN/PN)

RENEWAL OF ACTIVE LICENSE

- 15 practice-focused contact hours* **or**
- Nationally recognized certification or re-certification **or**
- Completed academic courses (nursing or related field)

INACTIVE STATUS

- No requirements

REINSTATEMENT FROM INACTIVE STATUS

If five (5) years or less:

- 20 practice-focused contact hours* **or**
- Nationally recognized certification or re-certification **or**
- Completed academic courses (nursing or related field)

If greater than five (5) years:

- Above requirements **and**
- Refresher course* or employer competency orientation program

*ASBN approved

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Where do I find continuing education contact hours?

A. There are workshops and seminars offered around the state, the region and the nation. There are also continuing education opportunities in nursing journals (i.e., *American Journal of Nursing*, *RN*, *Nursing 2003*) and on the Internet. It is the nurse's responsibility to select appropriate "practice-focused" activities and to check that the Arkansas State Board of Nursing (ASBN) has approved the approval body that has awarded the continuing education credit hours.

Q. What is the difference between contact hours and CEUs?

A. A contact hour is either a 50 or 60-minute clock hour of continuing education. It takes 10 contact hours to equal one CEU.

Q. My employer requires that I attend yearly fire safety and infection control in-services and that I maintain CPR certification. Will that count as my continuing education?

A. No. In-service programs and CPR certification are not acceptable for continuing education.

Q. Do I send in my CE contact hours to the ASBN with my license renewal?

A. No. It is the nurse's responsibility to maintain the records. The records must be original certificates of attendance, contact hour certificates, transcripts, or grade slips. If audited you may be required to submit copies as evidence. Records of continuing education must be maintained for a minimum of two consecutive renewal periods or four years.

Q. What happens if I get audited and I don't have the appropriate continuing education?

A. You will be allowed ninety (90) days to meet the continuing education requirement. After ninety (90) days, you will be assessed a late fee and receive a letter of reprimand which is reported to a national disciplinary data bank. The second occurrence of non-compliance will result in further disciplinary action.

Education activities must be completed in the two-year period prior to license renewal date.